

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6 remain in the application.

The claims have been amended to clarify Applicant's claimed invention. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments made herein.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Coberly et al. (hereinafter Coberly). This rejection is traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Coberly. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, inter alia, aspects of the previous claim 5. In particular, claim 1 now recites, a support insulator covering an entire outer circumference of the blade signal line. Also, claim 1 recites a plurality of blade guard patterns disposed on at least a portion of a surface of the support insulator for electromagnetically shielding the blade signal line. Accordingly, the claimed blade-like connecting needle for measuring a semiconductor wafer provides an excellent and complete guard environment for minimizing exposure of the signal line and electric coupling with adjacent signal lines and minimizes dielectric absorption, as discussed in the specification at least at page 10, ln. 18 - page 11, ln.13.

The Office states that ground probes 36 and 38 of Coberly constitute a plurality of guard patterns for electromagnetically shielding line 26. Applicant respectfully submits that ground probes 36, 38 neither disclose nor suggest the guard patterns recited in the claims of the present invention. It is also clear, however, that ground probes 36 and 39 are not disposed on at least a portion of a surface of the support insulator for electromagnetically shielding the blade signal line, wherein the support insulator covers an entire outer circumference of the blade signal line, as claimed by Applicant. This is unequivocally clear by

referencing Coberly, Figs. 1-3 where it is explicitly shown that there is a space between ground probes 36, 38 and the alleged support insulator 32 (16) and 34. That is, contrary to claim 1, ground probes 36, 38 are not disposed on at least a portion of a surface of the support insulator (the alleged elements 32 (16) and 34) for electromagnetically shielding the blade signal line, as claimed by Applicant since there is a space between elements 36 and 38, and 32 (16) and 34, respectfully. Thus, in contrast to Applicant's claimed blade-like connecting needle, Coberly does not minimize the exposure of the signal line to electrical coupling to adjacent signal lines nor does the Coberly device achieve minimize dielectric absorption.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in the specification at least at page 10, ln. 18 - page 11, ln. 9. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the amendments made herein.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Coberly. Therefore, the reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 are earnestly solicited.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, and 6 are patentable over the cited and relied upon Coberly for at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 and 6 are patentable over Coberly under 35 USC 102(b).

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1-4 and 6 are patentable over Coberly under 35 USC 102(b). The reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, and 6 are earnestly solicited.

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